

## BUYING GUIDES

### ***Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing Executive Order 12873***

*Greening the Government* was issued in the summer of 1997 to “familiarize Federal agencies with Executive Order 12873 and help them understand its intent.” It includes guidance on the prevention of waste, recycling of materials and acquisition of goods manufactured from collected materials. Although the guide is not a buying guide per se, it does provide basic information for government procurement of recycled products.

The guide contains a summary of the Executive Order including: standards, specifications, and designation of items; agency goals and reporting requirements; applicability and other requirements; and awareness. The guide also describes the regulations or recommendations for green standards in procurement. For example, it outlines the recommended recovered material content for many items to be used in green procurement such as paper, carpet, etc. The guide provides case studies of the actions that have been taken by various agencies to promote the purchase of recycled content. Finally, the guide provides a listing of resources with product information, including several buying guides listing environmentally preferable products.

### **References**

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive. *Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing Executive Order 12873*. Summer 1997.

### ***The Green Pages***

*The Green Pages* is a directory of 2,500 US suppliers of environmental products and services. Since 1993, it has been published annually by the US Department of Commerce. In addition to being distributed to foreign countries, it is supported by the United States-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP). US-AEP facilitates relationships between Asia and the environmental resources of the US, using *The Green Pages* as one of its primary tools.

All US companies are listed free of charge in *The Green Pages* if they are registered in the US Department of Commerce Office of Export Trading Company Affairs’ Contact Facilitation Database. This database contains any company that exports and registers itself in the database. Companies can also pay for advertising space in the directory, and the publishers of the directory also actively recruit companies to advertise in the pages. There is no methodology in place for ensuring that companies listed in the directory in fact abide by their claims regarding their products and services. The US Department of Commerce states that it “is unable to verify the qualifications and continued interest of any of the companies requesting to be included in this directory and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained therein.” In addition, the department does not endorse any of the products and services listed or advertised in the directory.

## References

US Department of Commerce. *The Green Pages*. US West Dex, Inc. 1997.